Amendments to the Claims:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-5 have been cancelled.

Claim 6 (withdrawn): A pharmaceutical formulation intended for oral administration, consisting essentially of:

- a core consisting of a vaccine composition according to Claim 15 embedded in a gelatin and

- a coating selected from the group consisting of a film-forming polymer which is soluble or expandable in water and soluble in solvents and which is selected from the group consisting of cellulose derivatives, polyvinylpyrrolidone, acrylic and methacrylic esters, polyethylene glycols, polyvinyl alcohols, vinylpyrrolidone/vinyl acetate copolymer, vinylpyrrolidone/polyvinyl alcohol copolymer and protein substances such as zein or gliadin.

Claim 7 (withdrawn): The formulation according to Claim 6, wherein said film-forming agent is selected from the group consisting of cellulose ethers and esters, such as cellulose acetate, cellulose acetate phthalate, cellulose butyrate, ethylcellulose and methylcellulose.

Claim 8 (withdrawn): The formulation according to Claim 6, wherein said film-forming polymer is combined with at least one plasticizer chosen from glycerol and esters thereof, high molecular weight polyethyleneglycols, ricine oil and citric, phthalic, adipic and sebacic acid esters.

Claim 9 (withdrawn): The formulation according to Claim 6, wherein the vaccine composition consists of a freeze-dried mixture of immunosomes onto which a gp120/160 protein is anchored and of trehalose.

Claim 10 (withdrawn): The formulation according to Claim 6 comprising

- a core consisting of a freeze-dried mixture of immunosomes, onto which a gp120/160 protein is anchored, with trehalose, embedded in gelatin and

- a coating consisting of a cellulose derivative, preferably cellulose acetate phthalate.

Claim 11 (withdrawn): A pharmaceutical formulation intended for local administration to a mucous membrane, consisting essentially of a vaccine composition according to Claim 15 embedded in glycerol or a glycerol/glycerine-based mixture.

Claim 12 (withdrawn): A formulation according to Claim 11, wherein said vaccine composition consists of a freeze-dried mixture of immunosomes, onto which a gp120/160 protein is anchored, with trehalose.

Claim 13 (withdrawn): A method of inhibiting HIV-1 infection comprising administering a recombinant HIV-1 envelope protein in which the V3 loop is partially or completely deleted, in an amount effective for inducing a humoral, cellular and mucosal immune response.

Claim 14 (withdrawn): The method of claim 13 wherein the envelope protein is selected from the group consisting of the recombinant gp160 and gp120 Env proteins in which the V3 loop is partially deleted, and the recombinant gp160 and gp120 Env proteins in which the V3 loop is completely deleted.

Claim 15 (currently amended): A ~~vaccine~~ immunogenic composition comprising a recombinant HIV-1 envelope protein comprising a mutated V3 loop, wherein the mutated V3 loop lacks all of the V3 loop except ~~consists of~~ the GPGRAF (SEQ ID NO: 1) hexamer sequence flanked by the two basal cysteines, and at least one pharmaceutically acceptable vehicle.

Claim 16 (currently amended): The ~~vaccine~~ immunogenic composition of claim 15 further comprising at least one compound selected from the group consisting of :

(1) the vaccination adjuvants selected from the group consisting of derivatives comprising divalent or trivalent ions: aluminum hydroxide or calcium phosphate, and muramylpeptide derivatives and

(2) liposomes.

Claim 17 (currently amended): The ~~vaccine~~ immunogenic composition of claim 15 wherein the envelope protein is anchored onto unilamellar synthetic lipid vesicles.

Claim 18 (currently amended): The ~~vaccine~~ immunogenic composition of claim 17 wherein the vesicles comprise a molar ratio of phosphatidylcholine to cholesterol of about 8:1, and which have a size of between 70 and 150 nm.

Claim 19 (currently amended): The ~~vaccine~~ immunogenic composition of claim 18 wherein the size of the vesicles is about 90 nm.

Claim 20 (currently amended): The ~~vaccine~~ immunogenic composition of claim 15 formulated ~~either for oral administration or general administration~~ for a general or systemic administration.

Claim 21 (new): The immunogenic composition of claim 20, wherein said composition is formulated for oral administration.

Claim 22 (new): The immunogenic composition of claim 20, wherein said composition is formulated for a local administration which involves a direct contact with a mucous membrane.

Claim 23 (new): The immunogenic composition of claim 15, wherein the envelope protein is selected from the group consisting of gp160 and gp120 Env proteins.